18 April 2013

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Disarmament Commission
Substantive session
New York, 1-19 April 2013

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 330th meeting, on 1 April 2013, the Disarmament Commission adopted the agenda for its 2013 substantive session (A/CN.10/L.70) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons". Also at its 330th meeting, on 1 April 2013, the Commission elected Knut Langeland (Norway) as Chair of Working Group II.

2. Working Group II held 11 meetings between 3 and 17 April 2013. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group had before it a working paper submitted by the European Union (A/CN.10/2013/WGII/WP.1).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 3 April 2013, the Working Group took up the previous Chair's second revised non-paper dated 17 April 2012 (A/CN.10/2012/WGII/CRP.1/Rev.2) and decided to use it as a basis for discussion.

5. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 4 and 5 April, the Working Group engaged in discussions and consultations on the non-paper dated 17 April.

6. At the 4th meeting, on 8 April, the Chair circulated a non-paper, based on the previous Chair's text of 17 April, and taking into account written and oral proposals made by delegations. At the same meeting, the Working Group began a reading of the Chair's non-paper entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons".

7. At its 5th meeting, on 9 April 2013, the Working Group continued its reading of the Chair's non-paper. At the same meeting, the Chair circulated a first revision of his non-paper, dated 9 April 2013.

8. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 10 and 11 April, the Working Group continued its discussions on the Chair's revised non-paper.

9. At the 8th meeting on 12 April, the Chair circulated a second revision of his non-paper.

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10. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 15 and 16 April, the Working Group completed its first reading of the latest version of the Chair's non-paper.

11. At the 11th meeting, on 17 April, the Chair circulated a third revision of his non-paper containing different proposals and amendments by Member States. The Chair announced his intention to convert the non-paper into a working paper to be issued as A/CN.10/2013/WGII/WP.2 under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation and its right to put forward further proposals at the next substantive session of the Commission. The working paper did not represent negotiated positions nor did it command consensus and should not set a precedent. All working papers past, present or future could be considered as a basis for future deliberations.

12. At its 11th meeting, on 17 April, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5. The Working Group recorded its appreciation of the Chair and the Secretariat.